

Remarks

The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's courtesy extended in discussing a selected ones of the claims on January 10, 2008. The Applicants have amended various ones of the claims as a result of that discussion. Details are set forth below.

First, the Applicants have discovered inadvertent errors in formula (2) as set forth on pages 4 and 6 of the specification. In that regard, the -C-OX moiety has been moved from the nitrogen in the upper portion of the ring to the nitrogen on the lower portion the ring. This is clearly an error in view of the formula (2) as is set forth in originally filed Claim 1. Also, two of the examples of the oxycarbonyls inadvertently omitted "oxycarbonyl." These items have been amended as well. Entry of these amendments into the official file is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8 and 21-24 have been amended to remove the word "general" from the term "general formula."

Claim 8 has been amended to recite a specific Markush group. Thus, Claim 8 now recites the process according to Claim 1, further comprising having at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a number of compounds that are set forth in paragraph [0022] of the specification which spans pages 10 and 11 to oxycarbonylate the piperazine derivative represented by formula (1).

Claim 9 has been amended to conform to the amendment to Claim 8. Therefore, Claim 9 now recites the process according to Claim 8, wherein pKa of the compound is seven or less.

Claim 10 has also been amended in view of the changes to Claim 8. Claim 10 now recites the process according to Claim 9, wherein the compound is a pyridine compound.

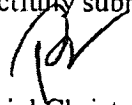
Finally, Claim 11 has been amended to remove "is used as a raw material" from the end of that claim.

Entry of the above changes into the official file is respectfully requested.

The Applicants also enclose a verified English translation of their Japanese priority document JP 2002-260376. Entry of the verified English translation into the official file is also respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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